WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for pricing transactions in real-time, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a real-time price quote for a transaction from a first account, the request being received at a first instance in time during a billing cycle;

determining a first production service, the first production service being a component of the transaction;

determining a count of first production service instances representing the first production service in the received transaction;

determining a billable entity for the transaction, the billable entity comprising one or more related accounts, wherein the one or more related accounts includes the first account;

determining a total of the first production service instances purchased by the one or more related accounts during the billing cycle up to the first instance in time, the total including the count of the first production service instances in the received transaction;

determining a price applicable to the total of the first production service instances based on a pricing method; and

apportioning the price to the received transaction based on the count of the first production service instance in the received transaction.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the pricing method is flat fee.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the pricing method is minimum revenue.

4.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the pricing method is tiering.

5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the pricing method is volume discounts.

6.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

determining a billing service related to a pricing of the first production service; and

determining a price table related to the transaction, the price table containing a price for the billing service.

7.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

calculating a variance to the price comprising:

determining an end-of-period total of the first production service instances purchased by the one or more related accounts during the billing cycle;

determining an end-of-period price applicable to the end-of-period

5 total of the first production service instances based on the pricing method; and

modifying the first price apportioned to the received transaction based on the end-of-period price.

8.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

10   determining one or more related production services, each of the one or more related production services being related to the first production service;

determining a count of related production service instances representing the number of related production services purchased during the billing cycle up to the first instance in time, the count of the related production service instances

15 including the count of the first production service instances in the received transaction;

determining a related production service price applicable to the count of the related production service instances based on the pricing method; and

apportioning the related production service price to the received

20 transaction based on the count of the first production service instances in the received transaction.

9.   A method for real-time pricing comprising:

receiving a request for a real-time price quote for a transaction, the request being received at a first instance in time during a billing cycle, wherein the

25 transaction comprises a number of first production service instances, each first production service instance representing a first production service;

determining a total count of production service instances consumed during the billing cycle up to the first instance in time based on a pricing relationship;

determining a billing service appropriate for the first production service;

30   calculating a price for the first production service from a price table based on a first attribute for the billing service and the total count of production service instances consumed; and

apportioning the price to the received transaction based on the number of first production service instances in the transaction.

10. The method of Claim 9 further comprising creating the transaction.

11. The method of Claim 9 further comprising creating the first production service, the first production service being a component of the transaction.

12. The method of Claim 9 further comprising creating the pricing relationship, the pricing relationship related to the first production service.

13. The method of Claim 9 further comprising creating the billing service related to a pricing of the first production service.

14. The method of Claim 9 further comprising creating the price table related to the transaction, the price table contains the first attribute for the billing service.

15. The method of Claim 9, wherein the pricing relationship comprises a billable entity.

16. The method of Claim 9, wherein the pricing relationship comprises one or more related accounts.

17. The method of Claim 9, wherein the pricing relationship comprises one ore more related production services.

18. The method of Claim 9, wherein the total count of production service instances consumed comprises a count of the first production service instances consumed.

19. The method of Claim 9, wherein the total count of production service instances consumed comprises a count of one or more related production service instances consumed.

20. The method of Claim 9, wherein the first attribute comprises a pricing method.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the pricing method is flat fee.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein the pricing method is minimum revenue.

23. The method of Claim 20, wherein the pricing method is tiering.

24. The method of Claim 20, wherein the pricing method is volume discounts.

25. The method of Claim 9 further comprising:

calculating a variance to the calculated price comprising:

determining an end-of-period count of production service instances consumed during the billing cycle based on the pricing relationship;

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calculating an end-of-period price for the first production service from the price table based on the first attribute for the billing service and the end-of-period count of production service instances consumed; and

modifying the price apportioned to the received transaction based

5   on the end-of-period price.

26.   A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

receive a request for a real-time price quote for a transaction, the request being received at a first instance in time during a billing cycle, wherein the

10   transaction comprises a number of first production service instances, each instance representing a first production service;

determine a total count of production service instances consumed during the billing cycle up to the first instance in time based on a pricing relationship;

determine a billing service appropriate for the first production service;

15   calculate a price for the first production service from a price table based on a first attribute for the billing service and the total count of production service instances consumed; and

apportion the price to the received transaction based on the number of first production service instances in the transaction.

20   27.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the pricing relationship comprises a billable entity.

28.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the pricing relationship comprises one or more related accounts.

29.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the pricing

25   relationship comprises one or more related production services.

30.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the total count of production service instances consumed comprises a count of the first production service instances consumed.

31.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the total

30   count of production service instances consumed comprises a count of one or more related production service instances consumed.

32.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the first attribute comprises a pricing method.

33.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to create the transaction.

5   34.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to create the first production service, the first production service being a component of the transaction.

10   35.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to create the pricing relationship, the pricing relationship related to the first production service.

36.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the
15   computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to create the billing service related to a pricing of the first production service.

37.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise
20   computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to create the price table related to the transaction, the price table contains the first attribute for the billing service.

38.   The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 26, wherein the computer instructions that receive a request for a real-time price quote further comprise
25   computer instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

determine an end-of-period count of production service instances consumed during the billing cycle based on the pricing relationship;

calculate an end-of-period price for the first production service from the price table based on the first attribute for the billing service and the end-of-period
30   count of production service instances consumed; and

modify the price apportioned to the transaction based on the end-of-period price.